

Commander's Connection



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joel M. Mease

Col. Philip Ruhlman and Santa Claus play to the crowd during the 20th Fighter Wing holiday party Dec. 11 at the Conference Center.

"Commander's Connection" is a link between Col. Philip Ruhlman, 20th Fighter Wing commander, and the Shaw community.

Questions or concerns that can't be resolved through normal channels can be called in and recorded at 895-4611 or e-mailed to **commander-sconnection@shaw.af.mil**.

Callers should leave a name and telephone number in case questions need clarification. Comments of general interest may be published in *The Shaw Spirit*.



We, as do most retirees, love to go camping as much as we can. Lake Wateree Recreation Area was an ideal place for retirees on limited incomes as it gave us a place to take our campers and enjoy camping at a reasonable monthly rate. It was one of the few places without skyrocketed prices unlike most everything else these days.

Parking campers there for a month or longer helped us retirees since we did not have the additional high fuel costs of pulling our campers back and forth. The RV camping rates have almost doubled and retirement pay does not increase proportionally with the camping rates imposed in October.

By raising the rates so drastically they have lost the steady revenue they previously had from several campers who camp year-round at Lake Wateree. None of us retirees can afford the \$150 a month increase based on our very small retirement income.



Thank you for your comments concerning the new fees for the RV spaces at Wateree Recreation Area. The recent fee increases were the first increases in more than five years and were to help offset increased operating expenses. The new fees were designed to be competitive based on a study of fees at commercial and state-run RV camps in South Carolina. Based on comments from customers and the low usage of the RV spaces during the winter season, the 20th Services Squadron is recommending a modification to the fee schedule. During April through September, the fees would remain as they are now. During October through March, the off-season, the recommended fees would change, if approved. There would be no time limit for staying during off-season and active-duty military would continue to have priority.

Seasons greetings to all from SECAF, CSAF

By Dr. James G. Roche
Secretary of the Air Force
and Gen. John P. Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

"In this special holiday season we offer our sincere best wishes to our Air Force family -- our Total Force of active duty, Guard, Reserve and civilians, as well as your families who support your remarkable commitment to protect freedom and defend the United States.

"You are the most important part of the world's greatest air and space force -- the heart and soul of our combat capability, and the bedrock of what makes this nation great.

"For those deployed, please know that you and your families are in our thoughts and prayers, and that we are enormously proud of the work you're doing. In Afghanistan and Iraq, you continue to fight terrorism

while helping courageous people find the path to stability and self-governance. For those of you who serve in the United States, you defend our Republic to keep Americans safe.

"At home and abroad, you give our nation priceless gifts through your service -- our cherished freedoms and the opportunity to live in peace.

"This is an extraordinary time to be an American and to serve in America's Air Force. We thank each of you and your families for your incomparable commitment. Wherever you may be this season, we encourage you to pause and reflect on your faith, your family, and your friends.

"We're honored to serve with you. We wish each of you a happy holiday season and blessings for a prosperous new year!"



The Shaw Spirit

Shaw Air Force Base editorial staff

Col. Philip Ruhlman.....20th Fighter Wing commander

Capt. Mark D. Gibson.....Public Affairs chief

2nd Lt. Bryan D. Cox.....Internal Information chief
bryan.cox@shaw.af.mil

Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash.....Editor
spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil

Airman 1st Class Joel M. Mease.....Staff writer
joel.mease@shaw.af.mil

Mrs. Tarsha Storey.....Correspondent
tarsha.storey@shaw.af.mil

Information intended for the *The Shaw Spirit* must be submitted Thursday the week prior of intended publication. Direct e-mail correspondence to **spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil**, call (803) 895-2018, fax (803) 895-2017 or mail to:

20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office
517 Lance Ave., Suite 107

Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. 29152-5041

The Shaw Spirit is published by the Camden Media Co., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 20th Fighter Wing.

This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of *The Shaw Spirit* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute

endorsement by DoD, the Air Force or the Camden Media Co., of the products or services advertised. (Ads may be rejected for publication by Camden Media Co.)

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

The 20th Fighter Wing commander and public affairs office are the determining authority as to whether a particular item will appear and its placement within the paper.

All copy submitted will be edited to conform to Air Force and local policy and style standards. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.

Direct classified ads to Camden Media Co. at (800) 450-1437 or fax (803) 432-7609 or e-mail **skaress@ci-camden.com**. All are run on a space-available basis.

Classified ads may also be dropped off at *The Shaw Spirit* office in Bldg. 1122 by Tuesday at 2 p.m.

Tigers appreciate Team Shaw readiness

By Lt. Col. J. D. Harris
Commander, 79th Fighter Squadron

The Tigers would like to thank every member of the 20th Figher Wing for the support we have received during our AEF on-call vulnerability period supporting Operation Noble Eagle.

During this period we have deployed four times to various locations and supported several taskings from home station that forced many of you to work long hours to help accomplish the mission. A special thanks goes out to the 20th Logistics Readiness Squadron for helping us get on the road and then making sure we were able to come back home in a timely manner; truly they are a full-service organization. In addition, the 20th Operations Support Squadron tower and Radar Approach Control personnel who often worked 24/7 to cover our home station tasking, yet are only manned for 16-hour days; you were nothing short of spectacular.

Our mission has been to keep the United States and our leadership safe from attack. While pretty broad in spectrum, we have notably been busy whenever the President of the United States left

the protection of the Washington, D.C. area. With this being an election year and all the campaigning that went on, we often found ourselves over Kansas City, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Colorado Springs, New York and Waco (just to name a few of the cities). We have spent days and nights over Tampa and Orlando, deployed to Texas and other states and will continue supporting our tasking with short-notice timing. Again, we could not do this without the support of the entire wing.

This is not an article about fighter pilots getting all of the glory and claiming to do all of the work; it is about teamwork. As a general rule, for every F-16 we deploy, 1.5 pilots, one operations specialist and 10 maintainers also deploy. For a "small" 6-ship F-16 ONE deployment, we will send out eight-nine pilots, six operations personnel (life support, aviation resource managers, intelligence and administrative personnel), nine security forces, two command post personnel, two logistics personnel and 60 maintainers (aircraft maintenance, supply, back shop, supervision and command and control). While deployed for ONE, this team lives on the flightline for 24-hour shifts and is ready to put F-16s into the air within minutes,

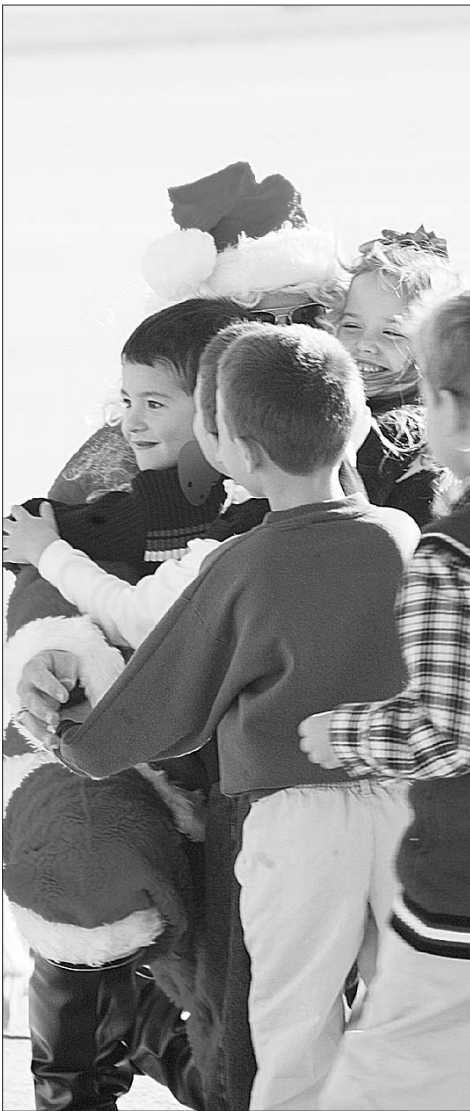
day or night, rain or shine. Two pilots, with a team of 30 people backing them up every minute of the day, get the job done.

As we start our fourth and final month of this tasking, we need to remember that the 77th FS is picking up ONE responsibilities for the next four months. The pace may be a bit slower because the election has passed, but the integrity of the security blanket they will provide will have an increased emphasis on the 20th FW teamwork piece. While the Gamblers have this tasking, they will also be challenged by sending most of their F-16s to depot for upgrades. The operations and maintenance groups will have to work even more closely than normal to ensure they can meet the call, 100% of the tasking, EVERY time the phone rings.

So, for the month of December, as you are moving about the base and see a 2-ship of Tigers taking off, armed with live ordnance, don't just think about how fun that would be ... think about the team that is backing those two pilots, about your specific job and how you can do it better to improve the team. Every member of the 79th FS Tigers salute Team Shaw and the 20 FW for another job well done. Thank you.

‘Here comes Santa Claus’ down Shaw runway

Below, Santa Claus arrives in an F-16 Sunday at the 20th Operations Group holiday party on the Shaw flightline. Right, more than 100 children crowded the hangar door waiting with anticipation.



Photos by 1st Lt. Suzanne Ovel